

H.R. 807, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study to determine the feasibility and suitability of establishing a memorial to the Space Shuttle Columbia in the State of Texas and for its inclusion as a unit of the National Park System.

Because of the limited time available for the hearing, witnesses may testify by invitation only. However, those wishing to submit written testimony for the hearing record should send it to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, United States Senate, Washington DC 20510-6150, or by email to [rachel\\_pasternack@energy.senate.gov](mailto:rachel_pasternack@energy.senate.gov).

For further information, please contact David Brooks at (202) 224-9863 or Rachel Pasternack at (202) Q24-0883.

#### COMMITTEE ON RULES AND ADMINISTRATION

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I wish to announce that the Committee on Rules and Administration will meet on Wednesday, September 12, 2007, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on the Nomination of Robert C. Tapella of Virginia, to be Public Printer, Government Printing Office.

For further information regarding this hearing, please contact Howard Gantman at the Rules and Administration Committee, 224-6352.

#### AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

##### COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, September 4, 2007 at 2 p.m. in executive session to continue to receive information relating to the treatment of detainees.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

##### COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, September 4, 2007, at 2 p.m., in room 419 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to hear testimony from the Government Accountability Office on the situation in Iraq.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, at this time I ask unanimous consent that Yvonne Stone, a Presidential management fellow assigned to the Appropriations Committee from the Department of Veterans Affairs and a staff member of the committee, be granted floor privileges for the duration of the debate on this bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that a member of my staff, Leah McCoy, be granted the

privilege of the floor until November 29, 2007.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### SMALL BUSINESS DISASTER RESPONSE AND LOAN IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2007

On Friday, August 3, 2007, the Senate Passed S. 163, as amended, as follows:

S. 163

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

##### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the “Small Business Disaster Response and Loan Improvements Act of 2007”.

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

- Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
- Sec. 2. Definitions.
- Sec. 3. Extension of program authority.

##### TITLE I—DISASTER PLANNING AND RESPONSE

- Sec. 101. Disaster loans to nonprofits.
- Sec. 102. Disaster loan amounts.
- Sec. 103. Small business development center portability grants.
- Sec. 104. Assistance to out-of-State businesses.
- Sec. 105. Outreach programs.
- Sec. 106. Small business bonding threshold.
- Sec. 107. Termination of program.
- Sec. 108. Increasing collateral requirements.
- Sec. 109. Public awareness of disaster declaration and application periods.
- Sec. 110. Consistency between Administration regulations and standard operating procedures.
- Sec. 111. Processing disaster loans.
- Sec. 112. Development and implementation of major disaster response plan.
- Sec. 113. Disaster planning responsibilities.
- Sec. 114. Additional authority for district offices of the Administration.
- Sec. 115. Assignment of employees of the Office of Disaster Assistance and Disaster Cadre.

##### TITLE II—DISASTER LENDING

- Sec. 201. Catastrophic national disaster declaration.
- Sec. 202. Private disaster loans.
- Sec. 203. Technical and conforming amendments.
- Sec. 204. Expedited disaster assistance loan program.
- Sec. 205. HUBZones.

##### TITLE III—DISASTER ASSISTANCE OVERSIGHT

- Sec. 301. Congressional oversight.

##### SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act—

(1) the terms “Administration” and “Administrator” mean the Small Business Administration and the Administrator thereof, respectively;

(2) the term “catastrophic national disaster” means a catastrophic national disaster declared under section 7(b)(11) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(b)), as added by this Act;

(3) the term “declared disaster” means a major disaster or a catastrophic national disaster;

(4) the term “disaster area” means an area affected by a natural or other disaster, as determined for purposes of paragraph (1) or (2) of section 7(b) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(b)), during the period of such declaration;

(5) the term “disaster loan program of the Administration” means assistance under section 7(b) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(b));

(6) the term “disaster update period” means the period beginning on the date on which the President declares a major disaster or a catastrophic national disaster and ending on the date on which such declaration terminates;

(7) the term “major disaster” has the meaning given that term in section 102 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5122);

(8) the term “small business concern” has the same meaning as in section 3 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 632); and

(9) the term “State” means any State of the United States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Northern Mariana Islands, the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and any territory or possession of the United States.

##### SEC. 3. EXTENSION OF PROGRAM AUTHORITY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1 of the Act entitled “An Act to extend temporarily certain authorities of the Small Business Administration”, approved October 10, 2006 (Public Law 109-316; 120 Stat. 1742), is amended by striking “July 31, 2007” each place it appears and inserting “October 31, 2007”.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by subsection (a) shall take effect on July 31, 2007.

##### TITLE I—DISASTER PLANNING AND RESPONSE

##### SEC. 101. DISASTER LOANS TO NONPROFITS.

Section 7(b) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(b)) is amended by inserting immediately after paragraph (3) the following:

“(4) LOANS TO NONPROFITS.—In addition to any other loan authorized by this subsection, the Administrator may make such loans (either directly or in cooperation with banks or other lending institutions through agreements to participate on an immediate or deferred basis) as the Administrator determines appropriate to a nonprofit organization located or operating in an area affected by a natural or other disaster, as determined under paragraph (1) or (2), or providing services to persons who have evacuated from any such area.”

##### SEC. 102. DISASTER LOAN AMOUNTS.

(a) INCREASED LOAN CAPS.—Section 7(b) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(b)) is amended by inserting immediately after paragraph (4), as added by this title, the following:

“(5) INCREASED LOAN CAPS.—

“(A) AGGREGATE LOAN AMOUNTS.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), and notwithstanding any other provision of law, the aggregate loan amount outstanding and committed to a borrower under this subsection may not exceed \$2,000,000.

“(B) WAIVER AUTHORITY.—The Administrator may, at the discretion of the Administrator, increase the aggregate loan amount under subparagraph (A) for loans relating to a disaster to a level established by the Administrator, based on appropriate economic indicators for the region in which that disaster occurred.”

(b) DISASTER MITIGATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 7(b)(1)(A) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(b)(1)(A)) is amended by inserting “of the aggregate costs of such damage or destruction (whether or not compensated for by insurance or otherwise)” after “20 per centum”.

(2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by paragraph (1) shall apply with respect to a loan or guarantee made after the date of enactment of this Act.

(c) TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS.—Section 7(b) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(b)) is amended—